Remarks

By this Amendment the specification has been amended to reflect prior related applications and to add an abstract on a separate page.

Claims 16, 26, 28 and 47-57 have been canceled, solely to reduce the filing fee and not for reasons of patentability. Claim 25 was inadvertently not included in the parent PCT application. To conform with the requirements of U.S. patent practice, claim 25 is indicated to be canceled. Claims 22 and 37 have been amended to correct matters of form. Claim 17 has been amended to be in dependent form, solely to reduce the filing fee.

The present application is being filed with a reduced filing fee under 37 CFR 1.492(a)(4), because the international preliminary examination fee was paid to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and the international preliminary examination report (IPER) stated that the criteria of novelty, inventive step (non-obviousness), and industrial applicability, as defined in PCT Article 33(1)-(4), have been satisfied for all the claims presented in the application entering the national stage. As the claim amendments were made solely to reduce the filing fee, and to correct matters of form, Applicants believe that they are entitled to the reduced fee. If the United States Patent and Trademark Office determines that the standard filing fee is due, please charge this fee to Deposit Account No. 02-4550.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment.

Conclusion

If any minor matters remain to be resolved before examination of this application, please call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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